THE

Yorkſhire-ROGUE,

OR,

Capt. *HIND* Improv'd;

IN

The Notorious Life, and Infamous Death, of that Famous Highway-Man, *WILLIAM NEVISON*, who was Executed at *York*, the 15*th* Day of *March*. 1684.

Together,

With a ſhort Account of ſeveral great Robberies committed by *Edward Bracy* his Comrade, another Notorious Highway-Man in *Nottinghamſhire*, who, as the Country came in to Apprehend him, was Shot to Death.

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THE Yorkſhire-ROGUE, OR, Capt. *HIND* Improv'd; IN The Notorious Life, and Infamous Death, of that Famous Highway-Man, *WILLIAM NEVISON.*

IT is not with deſign to Load the Memory of the Dead, that I firſt took Pen in Hand, to Write this Hiſtory of the Life of Mr. *Neviſon*, who hath already paid the dear price of his Blood for thoſe Crimes and Imoralities he was Guilty of; and of which, herein the Reader ſhall meet a *Summary Account*; but that in the Deſcription thereof, I may pay a *Devoir* to Truth, and ſet up the ſame as a *Buoy* or *Sea-Mark* for others, not

only to avoid thoſe Courſes wherein he was Wrackt, but likewiſe as a Caution to all Perſons, how they may prevent the Frauds and Robberies on themſelves, he too often, and too ſubtilly, practiced on others; and certainly no Age did ever produce an Example more Notorious, then what this Treatiſe ſhall furniſh you with, for tho' we have Read of ſeveral, whoſe Flagitious and Predatory Lives, have furniſht the Stories of all Ages with Paſſages Infamouſly Remarkable, yet as we now ſtand on the Shoulders of former Times, and have their Experience to forwarn us, it would be ſomewhat difficult, without the Invention of more Novel Methods then were then practiced, to manage thoſe Trades of Deceit and Rapine, with the ſame Succeſs that they did. But as Arts and Sciences of Uſe and Morality admit of Increaſe, ſo likewiſe thoſe of Villany grow up with them, the Devil being as Induſtrious to Improve his Followers in the

Schools

Schools of Vice, as our beſt Inſtructors are in thoſe of Vertue: Which will be illuſtrated in the Memoirs of the Life of *William Neviſon*, who was Born at *Pomfret* in *Yorkſhire*, about the Year 1639, of well Reputed, Honeſt and Reaſonably Eſtated Parents, nor is it any wonder that perſons ſo qualified ſhould have the misfortune of ſuch a Child, ſince every Days Experience demonſtrates this a Truth, *A good Father may have a bad Son*, Vertue and Vice rarely running in the Channels of Nature, tho' certainly their Crimes are greater, who are the Offspring of ſuch Parents, and run Counter not only to their Examples and Inſtructions, but alſo the Benefits of that Education they generally bring them up under, and which was not wanting to the Perſon of whom we now Treat, who with all the Care and Caution that good Parents could beſtow upon him, was Bred at School, where he made ſome progreſs, as to his Learning, and

in the Spring of his Youth, promiſed a better Harveſt, then the Summer of his Life produced; for to ſay the truth, he was very Forward, and Hopeful; till he Arrived at 13 or 14 Years of Age; when, its probable, the great Deceiver of Mankind taking notice of his early Ripeneſs, was reſolved to Corrupt the Root, and Blaſt the Fruit that might be expected thence; which he effected to purpoſe. For here it was he began to ſhew his future Carriage, and at the School where he was Educated, was the Ringleader of all his Young Companions to Rudeneſs and Debauchery, which as they were in themſelves, but the Faults of Childhood, which a Riper Age might probably have Eſchewed, (tho' in him quite otherwiſe,) I ſhall not long inſiſt upon, only take notice of one paſſage, which ſhall ſerve for others, and which indeed, as it had ſome relation Prognoſticative of his future Fate, may not be improper to Inſert, which was

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to the following purpoſe, *William Nevi-ſon's* Father having loſt a Silver Spoon, after all inquiries made for the ſame, nothing could be heard thereof at firſt, little ſuſpecting his Son of ſo young a Theft, till Three Weeks had paſt, & Obſervations were made, that *Will.* was fuller of Pence, Play-toys and Apples, then uſually, which made them a little more regard him, and finding his reſort to be frequent to an old Woman who Sold Fruit, the Father one Day asked her, whether his Son paid her for what he had? the old Woman innocently replyed, yes Sir, ſays ſhe, Mr. *William* about a Month paſt, found a Silver Spoon; which I bought of him for 4 *s.* in Money, and as much to be taken out in what Fruit he pleaſed; very good, replies the Father, pray Neighbour let me ſee it, which ſhe, without any reluctance, did, and which the Father found to be the ſame he had loſt, ſo that young *Will.* being detected, was ſeverely Chid for the

Roguery, and his further Puniſhment reſerved to his Maſter, who the next Morning, when *Will.* came to School, called him to him, and after he had accuſed him of the Theft, from out of the Upper Form amongſt his Mates, Deputes the Eldeſt to be Judg, and other his inferiours, Clerks and Aſſiſtants, and Twelve more, to be of his Jury, whilſt the old Woman was brought in as a Witneſs againſt him. This Court of petty Judicature being thus Eſtabliſhed, an Indictment was brought againſt young *Will.* whereupon he was Arraigned, and to which *Will.* pleaded, *Not Guilty*, but the Evidence being ſufficient, and undeniable, notwithſtanding all his Evaſions, as that he found it, and did not know the owner, with others to the like purpoſe, he was fairly brought in *Guilty*, and Sentence was accordingly paſt on him, *That he ſhould be Hanged.* Here it was that *Will.* was extreamly ſtartled, and tho' he thought at firſt, that they did not intend to

Execute

Execute the Sentence, yet, when he ſaw himſelf Tied up, and Bound, and the Halter ſhewed him, he begun really to apprehend, that all thoſe Formalities did pertend ſomething worſe then he could well Imagine; an Hours time was given him to Repent in, which his Maſter came to him, and told him, that he had brought this End upon himſelf, and was now to Anſwer, as well for this, as all other his Crimes, and therefore it behooved him to prepare for ſo untimely a Fate, which would be not only his own Suffering, but the Diſgrace of his Friends and Relations, and that there was no way to get Pardon from the Sentance, which ſhould be certainly effected upon him, therefore an ingenious Confeſſion of all thoſe Rogueries he ſtood ſuſpected of, was the beſt Means to work his Peace with Heaven, whereby he might be Happy, if not, he muſt exſpect a worſe Place and Penalty, then what he here underwent; terribly perplext was the

Youth at this warning, and began to recollect the Memory of his Treſpaſſes, tho' he was not reſolved to confeſs the ſame, till the very laſt, hopeing to advantage himſelf in the proteſtations of his former Innocency, till the Hour came about, and from the Dark Room wherein he had been kept, one who repreſented the Goaler, and others the Sheriff and his Guards, who were to be his Executioners, came to give him notice, his Time was come, and accordingly led him into the middle of the School, where over a Croſs-Beam there fixt, a long Rope was hung, with a Nooſe at one end, and the other reaching the Ground, ſo that the Nooſe being put about his Neck, 3 of them were to draw him up & hold him, till he were Dead, to which place being brought, his Maſter came to him, and asked him what he had to ſay, why his Sentance ſhould not be Executed, according as the ſame was pronounced? To which, our young Thief told him,

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He hoped that for his firſt Crime, he might expect Mercy, and that the Severity of the Law might be then ſpared againſt him, and ſome leſſer Puniſhment ſerve; but this, his Maſter told him, was not the way to obtain it, in that he rather expected, to have heard a Confeſſion of his former Faults, then that Obſtinacy, in the denyal thereof, and Cunning, to hide the ſame, ſo that if he had no more to ſay, Die he muſt, and accordingly ordered the Halter about his Neck, ſo that our Youth ſeeing them ſerious, began to be in the like poſture, and Crav'd one word more with his ſaid Maſter, which was to tell him of ſome of his former Tranſgreſſions, and to disburthen his Conſcience, ſince he was now ſo near his End; and here it was that *Will.* Confeſſed ſeveral of his Youthful Rogueries, what *Orchards*, *Rooſts* and *Styes*, he had Rob'd of their *Fruit*, *Pullen*, *Pigs*, and ſuch like things, which he uſed to Sell, or otherwiſe diſpoſed of, at ſome Neigbouring

Town

Town or Market, and particularly, That one Day an Ancient Widow in the Town, having a Sow that had newly Pig'd in a Field not far from the Cottage where ſhe dwelt; *Will.* happening to come by with ſome Puppies in his Lap, which he had reſolved to Drown, ſpyed the Sow and her Young Ones in a Ditch, to which he repaired, and for his Three Puppies, which he left, takes as many of the Pigs away with him, to a lone Wood not far from thence, where 4 or 5 times a Day *Will.* conſtantly reſorted, and fed them with Milk, which he had learnt to Milk from the Cows that were feeding thereby, into his Hat, till he had brought them up to ſome Three Weeks growth, ſtill cutting their Hoofs to the very quick, ſo that they could not run thence, and the ſame being in a very lonely place, no Body found them out, whilſt in the mean time, no other Talk was had in the Town, then of the ſtrange and prodigious Birth of this Sow, every

every one thinking that ſhe had littered one half Pigs and the other Puppies, which was univerſally lookt on as very Ominous of ſome enſuing diſaſter, nor was the ſame unridled till the time abovesaid, *Will.* being cunning in the diſpoſal of his Markettings far enough from home not to come to a diſcovery, tho this laſt had unhappily fell upon him, he being in haſt for preſent Money at the time he committed the Error.

Another Fact that *Will.* Confeſſed, was, that having rob'd an Orchard, and brought away as much Fruit as he could bear in his Sachel, Hue and Cry came after him, tho it happened to be only that of an old Woman, for whom *Will.* was too quick, yet being ſome diſtance from the Town and ſafety, he ſpyed her and her Daughter, who had by that time joyned her, coming full Amble after him, ſo that fearing a diſcovery, he meets one of his Companions, to whom he ſuddenly reſorted, telling him he had got ſome

delicate

delicate Fruit, which if he would give him any thing for he ſhould have, the boy told him he had but a few tokens, aud ſome bowling ſtones, to exchange, which *Will.* readily accepts and makes off another way, whilſt in the mean time, the other Boy ſetting down to look of his Purchaſs, up comes the old Dame and ſeverely lugs him by the Ears for robbing of her, and away trots with him to his Maſter, who (notwithſtanding he told the truth) could not be believed, for *Will.* utterly denyed that he ever ſaw him, and was the next morning ſorely laſht for his ſuppoſed Crimes. Theſe with many other Peccadilloes was the Subject of our Condemned's Confeſſion, which he ended with much Penitence and Preparation, to reſign himſelf, when his Maſter having juſt ſuffered the Rope to be ſtiff drawn up, that the ſame began to pinch him, gave him his Pardon from Death, reſerving only a Puniſhment, that for a Fortnights time, once a day, publickly, he ſhould

ſhould ſtand a whole hour with his Breeches down in the middle of the School, and ſubmit to three laſhes on his Poſteriours. This Sentence tho ſomewhat hard was much better than the former in the Apprehenſion of our Pardon'd Youth, tho both were too ſevere in his opinion for his Crimes, the conſideration whereof lay heavily on his Mind, and was the Subject of the next Nights Meditation, which iſſued in a reſolution of Revenge on his Maſter, whatever Fate he met with in the Execution hereof, to which end having light on a Project for his purpoſe, lying in his Father's Chamber, he gets ſoftly up before ſuch time as the day appeared, and hearing that his Father ſlept, he puts his hand into his Pocket, where he found the Key of his Cloſet, which unperceiv'd he drew thence, and down he creeps to the ſaid Cloſet, where he ſupplies himſelf with what Caſh he could readily find, which amounted to about 10 *l.* and with this, know-

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ing that his ſaid Maſter had a Horſe he had a particular delight for that then Grazed behind his Houſe, he gets a Bridle and Saddle from his Fathers Stable, and an hour before Morning, Arrays and Mounts the ſaid Horſe onward for *London* with all the haſte the ſaid Beaſt would convey him, nor was he ſparing of his fleſh, deſiring to make the beſt of his Jorny as long as the ſame would Travel, which he purſued with ſuch eagerneſs that before he had Baited he had got near 40 Miles, whilſt in the mean time, his Father not miſſing his Son, thinking him gone to School went about his Affairs, and having no occaſion for his Key till about Noon, made no enquiry after him, nor was there on the other Hand any ſuſpicion by his Maſter that *Will.* was Riding his Beaſt to Death, tho by 10 of the Clock his Servant told him the ſaid Horſe was ſtrayed, ſo that he had time enough for his Eſcape, and got upwards of 70 Miles that Night

by

by as unfrequented Roads as he could poſſibly light on, the Horſe thus far holding out well, the next morning he got up and purſues the remainder of his way very early, telling the People of the Inn where he lay he was Servant to a Gentleman who had ſent him on earneſt Buſineſs for *London*, and had got beyond *Ware* juſt at ſuch time as his Horſe began to tyre, which he was not much ſorry for, knowing that if he ſhould have carried the ſame with him, it would but have proved a means of his diſcovery, and remembring the Value his Maſter put on him, he thought it better in ſome private place to cut his Throat and forſake him then hazard himſelf at ſo cheap a rate: This intention he purſued, getting him only as far as he could onward of his Jorney by a back Road till juſt ſuch time as the Evening overtook him, and gave him the better oppertunity to effect his purpoſe which he did, leaving him in a bye place weltring

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in his own bloud, whilſt he was reſolved by the light of the Moon to wander forward as far as he could, till he happen'd into ſome bye place to a Lodging, which after an hours ſeeking he at laſt met with in a little Village 3 Miles from the main Road at a Farmers houſe, to whom he pretended his condition to be mean, and that coming from *Ware* he had loſt his way, the Charitable Hoſt entertained him for that Night, and the next Morning told him, that he had a Servant of his going for *London*, and that if he would, he might Ride behind him, our Youth hartily thanked his Hoſt and offered him a piece of Money for his Entertainment, which the Farmer willed him to ſpare, telling him perhaps he might have occaſion elſewhere for it, ſo that being thus got to *London* in two days time, and part of the next day, he then began to apprehend twas impoſſible to find him, as indeed it proved, for when the Father had ſent to the Maſter to

Inquire

Inquire of his Son, who had not ſeen him, and miſt his Money, they began to conſult together what was become of him, which they could not meet the leaſt Account of, for 3 or 4 Days, nor then, but by chance, by a Butcher who had come to *Pomfret* Market, who ſaid, he ſaw a Lad upon ſuch a Horſe, as they deſcribed the ſaid Maſters to be, Riding over a Common, 15 Miles thence, on the Tueſday Morning preceeding, ſo that it was concluded Horſe and Money had Travelled one Road, but without hopes to find him, tho all Inquiries Imaginable was made after him, and News by the next Poſt ſent to *London*, to put him into the *Gazet*, with the Reward of 20 l. for his diſcovery, which proved ineffectual, for our Youth had changed his Garb and Name, and being a lufty well-looking Lad, had put himſelf into the Service of a Brewer, where for 2 or 3 Years following he Lived, not at all changed in his mind, though Opportunity was not, dureing

that time, Ripe to put his Ill Intention into Practice, though he watch't all ſeaſons to advance himſelf, and at length having ſeveral times attempted to Rob his Maſter, at laſt effected the ſame, taking the Advantage one night of the Clerks Drunkenneſs who was his Caſheire, he got by ſtealth, after him into the Compting-houſe, where the ſaid Clerk falling aſleep, and rifled the ſame, of all ſuch Caſh he could conveniently come at, which amounted to near 200l. with this he ſet up for the Theiving Trade, and lying ſometime purdue about *Wapping*, took his Opportunity of ſome Ships going off for *Holland*, he imbarked himſelf, and got ſafely from the ſhore of *England*, changing his Silver into Gold, and his Habit into that of a Gentleman, the ſhip in which he went was bound for *Rotterdam*, whether in a few days he arrived, and being now to ſeek his Fortunes, and Live upon his Wits, his daily Study was, deſign and practice, which he was no bad pro-

proficient in, but being a Stranger in the Country, he was at first to inquire into their Manners and Customs, before he could well perform his designed Ends, to which purpose he got Lodgings at a Merchants House of Reputation, pretending himself of a good Family in *England*, who upon Account of the then Usurpation there, were under Oppression, and that with a small parcel of Gold, he had narrowly escaped thence, all which, the Gentleman believed him in, and began to Commiserate his Misfortunes, offering him his Table, and all the Service he could expect from him, which our Traveller as readily accepted, telling him, he would not be behind hand with him, in the return of his Favours, whensoever he should have Opportunities of hearing from *England* seated thus in a happy Soil, *Will.* was blest beyond all Expectation, and began to see his Rogury Flourish, which according to the Doctrine of those times, he looked upon as a Blessing

from above, upon the Induſtrious Labour of his Brains. In the Family where he was, beſides the Gentleman, who was not very Ancient, there was his Wife, & 2 Daughters by another Venter, with Servants and Attendants, who all in their reſpective degrees bore our Traveller a due reſpect, nor was he leſs in the Favour of the Females then the reſt, for being of a ruddy Sanguine Complexion, & well Proportioned, having the advantage of a good Carriage, and Aptly Ingenious in his Diſcourſe, they could not look upon him with an Indifferent Eye, nor he but perceive it, which he was reſolved to make the beſt advantage of, to which end, after he had ſtayed there about 3 Months, he particularly addreſſed himſelf to the eldeſt of the 2 Daughters, and in all places took every advantage whereby to declare his Reſpects to her, which was not at all hindred, though taken notice of by the Father, he ſtill taking his Gueſt for a Perſon of Quality,

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and Heir to a good Eſtate, as he had declared himſelf to be ; but the ſame could not be ſuffered by the Mother, not that ſhe diſliked the Perſon of Mr. *Neviſon*, but indeed, too well fancied him, to let her Daughter Rival her, ſo that one day regarding their familiarity, ſhe inveighed againſt her Husband firſt, and her Daughter afterwards, for admitting a ſtranger thereunto, one whom they had no further voucher for, then his own Mouth, to prove what he had declared, her Husband put her off with an aſſurance, that the ſtranger was the ſame he pretended, and the Daughter Eſteemed her advice but that of a Stepmother, and began with a Jealous Eye to perceive the true Cauſe of her Diſtemper, but ſeeing this Method prevailed ſo little, the next day ſhe takes an Opportunity to get privately to Mr. *Neviſon*, and in ſhort, after many previous Diſcourſes, which I ſhall not Tyre the Reader with, declared her Paſſion for him, telling

him, that nothing leſs then ſo great Merits as his, could ever have induced her to reveal ſo great a ſecret to his Breaſt, which ſhe begg'd him to make what advantage he pleaſed of, regarding only her honour, which by a cloſe management of this Amour, might be preſerved in violate, to which, the Joyed Youth gave a ſuitable return, deſigning all the while what advantage he could make to himſelf by the Adventure, and not ſo far entring into a Conſideration of the Diſcourſe, as to promiſe any private Aſſignation with her, remembring his Engagements with the Daughter, whom he had, in regard of her Youth, a greater liking to, yet on the other hand, he thought it not amiſs by ſome wined Expreſſions, to hold her on in a ſeeming incouragement, that he was not averſe to thoſe Propoſitions ſhe made him, ſo that for a Months time *Will. Neviſon* was much perplexed between his 2 Miſtreſſes, and they as much between themſelves, either of

of them having found each others Loves, and yet either of them fearful to proceed too far againſt each other, by way of prevention, leaſt the Father came acquainted therewith, and the Iſſue ſhould prove the Baniſhment of Mr. *Neviſon* from the Family, which thought could not be admitted with any Patience, ſo that both of them were deſirous to Enjoy him, yet neither of them could meet an Opportunity, the Daughter had propoſed her Marriage to her Father, and was Seconded by Mr. *Neviſon*, but the Old Man waited ſome further Aſſurances of his Son in Laws Fortunes, and delayed it, the Wife in the mean while tryed all the means ſhe could poſſibly contrive, to bring her Lover to her Arms, which he taking the advantage of one day, when ſhe came to him, ſeemed to be extreamly concerned, and as if he had not ſeen her, raiſed a deep Sigh, and began to Condemn his Fortune, in words at length, which ſhe taking notice of,

Expoſtulated with him about the Cauſe of that grief, he then ſeemed under, declaring, ſhe believed it was on her Daughters Account, and therein he was unkind to himſelf, ſince, as he had no proſpect of his hopes from that bottom, the Father having denyed his conſent thereunto, that he ſhould refuſe what ſhe ſo freely offered him, Mr. *Neviſons* Reply was, that ſhe extreamly obliged him in her Favours, but had miſtaken the cauſe of that Melancholly he was then under, which aroſe from the preſent Juncture of his Affairs, which went againſt him in *England*, the Uſurper there having ſeized upon his Fathers Eſtate, and Impriſoned him, ſo that he could have no returns, and the little he had brought over with him, was near ſpent, to redreſs which, was his greateſt trouble, ſhewed her a contrived Letter that ſpake to the ſame effect, which ſhe not ſtaying to Examine the Truth of, told him, that ſhe had got together in her own Cuſtody,

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Treaſures ſufficient to Incourage him, and that Diaſter, which were all at his ſervice, provided ſhe might have the like from him, in Relation to thoſe deſires ſhe had ſo freely breathed into his breaſt, which being the point he only drove at, and by this means ſo near an Accompliſhment, he was not backward in his promiſes to her, and in ſhort, made an appointment the next day, to give her a private meeting, in the mean while, the Daughter was as forward in driving on the Match between her ſelf and Lover, but could not obtain the Fathers Conſent therein, ſo that ſhe came to a Reſolution, to propoſe to Mr. *Neviſon*, to make her eſcape into ſome other Province of the Country, and their Marry and Settle with him, which ſhe did, and which Mr. *Neviſon* conſented to, acquainting her only by the way, with the ſame Circumſtances of his Condition, as he had ſometime before done to the Mother, and that it would be neceſ-

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ſary, Proviſion were made for his Supply, before he undertook the ſame, to which ſhe reply ed, that ſhe had taken care therein, and beſides ſeveral Valluable Jewels, ſhe had acceſs to her Fathers Caſh, where ſhe could be ſufficiently ſtored with what was more then neceſſary for the ſaid Voyage, hopeing in a ſhort time to gain his good will to the Match, when the ſame was Conſummated; things being thus Stated, and the Father next day going out of Town, gave both our Females opportunities to compleat their ſeveral Intents, and which either of them took the Advantage of, the firſt having preſented him to the value of 500 l. Starling, in Gold, and gained his Vow, the next Night to come Privately to her Chamber, and accompliſh her Satisfaction, the latter having ſupplyed her ſelf with a like Sum, and prepared all things for her deſigned Eſcape that Evening, with which ſhe Acquainted him, and

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in ſhort, wherein he accompanied her, leaving his Expecting Miſtreſs to ſigh out the Night alone, to bewail his Abſence, and rail at his perfidiouſneſs. In this condition did our thus far Fortunate Traveller, bleſs his Stars, for the happineſs of his Encounters, the World ſmiling upon him, and nothing but Joy and Dallyance filling his hours, nor was his Miſtreſs Company leſs grateful to him, ſhe being of a very agreeable Temper, Young & Beauteous, the Night conveyed them 10 Leagues from home, and the next Morning ſaw their Eſpouſals at a private Church in a little Town where they then arrived, from whence, I ſhall not leave them, to perſue the Relation of the diſappointments, the Father and Mother were in, upon News of their eſcapes, but perſue the Hiſtory, in acquainting the Reader, that they had ſtayed here about a Week, reaping the Fruit of their Enjoyment, when an Accident happened, that quite ruined Mr. *Neviſons* new gained Fortunes, for as

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it fell out, his late Maſters Clerk whom he had Rob'd, as before mentioned, being proſecuted by his Maſter, for the Moneys he had loſt, was forced to make his eſcape, and had taken up his Reſidence in the ſame place where he then hapened to be, and having one Day ſpied him, uſed all endeavours to get him ſeized, acquainting the Magiſtrates of the place with his Circumſtances, and the Crime he had Committed, but they not having Power to take cognizance of the ſame, he was forced to think of other Methods for his Redreſs, which he did, by applying to *Neviſon* himſelf, and threatning him with Proſecution, unleſs he gave him a ſudden Satisfaction, *Neviſon* a little ſurprized at the matter, began to Study an Evaſion, which he was not long in ſearch of, telling him, that he had Married a great Fortune, and was in good Condition to pay him, but at the preſent being from his Relations he could ſupply him but with little ready Mony,

though he would draw a Bill upon his Wives Brother in *Amſterdam*, that at 10 Days ſight ſhould diſcharge his Debt, provided he would give him a releaſe for the ſaid 200 *l.* he had taken from him, as ſo much Money Lent, which he ſaid ſhould be only to ſalve his Reputation, if he ever returned to *England*, though he had then no intentions ſo to do, giving him 20 *l.* in hand, to bear his Charges for *Amſterdam*, hereupon an Agreement was made, and a Bill and Releaſe drawn, and delivered his *Engliſh* Friend, little ſuſpecting any deceit in the matter, glad of his ſuppoſed good Fortune, left him to purſue his Journey to *Amſterdam*, whilſt he was under thoughts of removing thence, but his new Father coming home, hearing of his Gueſt, and Daughters adventure, ſent inquiries after them, and being acquainted with their Reſidence, ſoon purſued and over-took them, where he met not only the news of his Son in Law, but the Relation

lation that had been given of him to the Magiſtrates aforeſaid, which extreamly ſtartled him, ſo that Joyning his complaint with what before had been given againſt him, he was ordered forthwith to be Secured, which early the next Morning was put in Execution, and he hurried away to the Common Goal, Miſerable was his Condition under this miſadventure, his Father Threatning to proceed againſt him with all Rigour, for the Cheat he had put upon him, not admitting him ſo much as to ſee his Miſtreſs, whom he ſent home with ſo much grief & ſhame, for this diſapointment, that ſhe took the ſame to Heart, and Dyed, the News of which did but raiſe the Old Mans Malice againſt him, nor did the ſame want the Augmentation of his Wife, whoſe Love was now turned into Hatred, and who uſed all the Endeavours ſhe could with her Husband to Enſpirit his Proſecution againſt him, the Money that he had with him was moſt of it

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ſeized, ſo that he ſaw himſelf in a ſtrange Country, under the Rigour of Laws, he was unacquainted with, without any Friends to aſſiſt him, and utterly deſtitute of any hopes of Liberty from the Entreaties of his Wife, who was now Dead, and no longer an Interceſſor for him, this put him to his laſt ſtraits, and ſet his head a working, how to deliver himſelf, which he ſaw no proſpect of, unleſs he could ſome way Corrupt his Goaler, which he often in vain attempted, ſo that he had but 2 Days left, before he was to take his Tryal, which his Advocates told him, would amount to no leſs then Death, In this Perplexity meeting with one of his Country Men, who was in Priſon with him, he began to conſult, how they might break thence, which after many Projects, at length they agreed, that the next Night, being lockt into one Room, they ſhoould get up the Chimney that belonged to the ſame, and ſo eſcape over the Turrets to the adjacent Houſes,

ſes, from whence they would leave their getting down to Fortune, as the ſame ſhould happen, the Night coming on, they attempted the ſame, but found themſelves ſtopt at firſt, by ſome Iron Bars that were drove a croſs, which with much difficulty they broke down, and in 2 or 3 hours labouring, overcame the ſaid reſtraint, and breathed the free Air on the Leads of the Turret, but how to get thence was their next care, which they found very dangerous, the only way being to leap the Leads of a Neighbouring Houſe, which was a whole Story in the fall, and at leaſt 4 Yards over, but Danger in their Caſe, was little Vallued, nor did *Neviſon* baulk it, but ſhowed his Companion the way, by firſt attempting the ſame, from which they both got ſafe, yet being ſtill a great way from the ground, & having no Ropes to let them down, their Project was very near Succeſleſs, when they beſought themſelves to get down one of the Chim-

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Chimneys of the Houſe, where they then were, as they had got up that of the Priſon, all that they feared was a diſcovery by the Inhabitants, who would take them for Thieves, but this they put to the Venture, and accordingly undertook the ſame, which to ſhorten the Relation, they performed, and as it happened, the Servants of the Houſe being up a Waſhing, they came into the ſame Room where they were at their Bowls, who wondring firſt at the noiſe they made coming down, thinking the Houſe a falling about their Ears, were extreamly frighted, but much more when they ſaw the Perſons whom they took for Devils, at which with great ſhreeks they made out to the ſtreet, which our Priſoners taking advantage of, and cloſely following their ſteps, thereby freed themſelves, being in this manner diſcharged, they Travelled with all the haſt they could make, not much valueing which way they went; ſo the ſame were out of

the Road, and would lead them to ſafety, which as it hapned, fell according to their Intentions, and after diverſe difficulties, they both got into *Flanders*, and Liſted themſelves amongſt the *Engliſh* Volunteers, who were under the Command of his Royal Highneſs, who about the ſame time was made Lieutenant General of the *Spaniſh* Forces, under *Don John* of *Auſtria*, and were then deſigned to raiſe the Seige of *Dunkirk*, which was beleagured by the *French* and *Engliſh* Armies, wherein I ſhall paſs over the Perſonal Services, that Mr. *Neviſon* performed, he being one of the laſt of the Dukes own Regiment, that withſtood, almoſt ſingly, the whole force of the Prevailing party, to give their Friends liberty to eſcape, purchaſing their ſafety, at the hazard of their own Lives, but being at length after a Noble and Gallant reſiſtance, over powred by Numbers, and having no ſupplies to refreſh their wearied Bodies, they were forced to

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yeild to their Enemies Numbers, or Truſt to the heels of their Horſes, amongſt whom *Neviſon* was one that eſcaped, where after he had ſome time ſtay'd, & the ſaid Service being over, he was reſolved on his return for *England*, which he took the next Opportunity for,& where he arrived much about the ſame time that the grand Uſurper paid his laſt debt to Nature, and left 3 Torn and Diſtracted Realms, groaning under the burthen of his Tyrannical, and Imperious Slavery, where being ſafely arrived, he began to think of returning to his Father, and take upon him an honeſt Country Life, but this not being agreeable to his Temper, he put by the ſame, and with what he had left, bought himſelf Horſe and Arms, and reſolving for the Road, and purchaſe a pleaſant Life, at the hazard of his Neck, rather then toyl out a long Remainder of unhappy Days in Want and Poverty, which he was always averſe to, being thus Supplied, every

day one Booty or other enriched his Stores, which he never would admit a ſharer in , chooſing to manage his deſigns alone , rather then truſt his Life into the Hands of others, who by Favour or Misfortune might be drawn in to accuſe him, amongſt many of which Young Adventures, I ſhall touch upon 2 or 3 that I may proceed to the more Important parts of his Life.

One Day Travelling on the Road, and ſcouring about in ſearch of ſome Prize, he meets 2 Countrymen, who coming up towards him, informed him that it would be very dangerous Travelling forward, for that the way was ſet, and they had been Robb'd by 3 High-way-men, about halfe a Mile off, and if he had any Charge of Money about him, 'twere his ſafeſt Courſe to turn back, Rob'd, ſays *Neviſon*, that's ſomething ſtrange, that you ſhould ſuffer the Money to be taken away, when you confeſs there was no greatter Number then 3 to 2, had I ſingly met

met the Rogues, they ſhould have fought it out, e're I had parted with the leaſt Penny---Oh Sir, Replies the Countrymen, we had no other Arms then our Cudgels, and they Aſſolted us with Piſtols and Drawn Swords, ſo that Reſiſtance was in vain, and we though it better to come off with our Lives, then looſe them and Money too, though we could ill ſpare it, being the all that either of us had, and with which we were going to Buy us ſome Cattle, to Stock a Farm, we had lately taken between us, which we muſt now ſurrender to our Landlord, and Repair to our dayly Labour again, by which we hardly earned it, a hard Caſe indeed, ſays *Neviſon*, pray what did you loſe, 40 *l.* ſays the Countrymen, and what, purſues he, would you give him that ſhould hazard his Life to get the ſame again,--- Oh Sir, ſays the other, I would not have any one ſo to do, though I would much rather it were all in the Hands of an Honeſt Man, then ſuch Rogues

ſhould Enjoy it, though I was not the better, one Penny for it,--ſay you ſo, replies *Neviſon*, then turn back with me, and ſhow me the way they took, and my Life to a Farthing, I'le make them return every individual peice of it, or give you their Lives in Exchange, the Countrymen glad to meet with ſuch a Champion, though full loath to hazard the Encounter, was with ſome difficulty induced to it, till he told them he would certainly bring them off, and that if they would not fight, they ſhould ſtand at a diſtance & ſee the Sport, whereupon they conſented, & being well Horſed, Rode back to the ſame place where they ſtruck off, which *Neviſon* found to be an Avennue, he was well Acquainted with, and which led directly into the next Road, ſo that mending his pace he led the way, and they as faſt as they could in ſight of him, till he came to the Top of a Hill, where the Countrymen Joyned him, and where as they ſtood together, they might

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perceive in the bottom, 3 Men leadin their Horſes, whoſe Colours were eaſily diſcernable, and which they knew to be the ſame that had Rob'd them, all which they Communicated to *Neviſon*, well then ſays he the Money is Safe, do you light, and I'le Ride down the Hill only, come ſome little diſtance one from the other, and if you ſee them make off, come after me with all Speed you can poſſibly, leaſt I looſe you, the Countrymen purſued their Inſtruction, & *Neviſon* Rides on, till he came up with the 3 Men aforeſaid, who took not the leaſt notice of him, ſeeing others come down the Hill, ſo that having paſt, and Ey'd them, he returns, and coming near them ſpeaks to the foremoſt, Sir, by your Garb and the Colour of your Horſe, you ſhould be one of thoſe I look after, and if ſo, my buſineſs is to tell you, that you borrowed of 2 Friends of mine Fourty Pounds, which they deſired me to demand of you, and vvhich, before vve part,

you muſt reſtore,--How 40 *l.* Dam me Sir, are you mad, ſo mad, replies *Neviſon*, as that your Life ſhall Anſwer me if you do not give me better Satisfaction, with that he draws his Piſtol, and ſuddenly claps it to his breaſt, come Sir, adds he, no words, reſtore the Money, or you Dye, the Thief ſomewhat ſurprized at his boldneſs, began to look about for his Friends, who not regarding the ſingle Man, and ſeeing others coming down the Hill, had Rode off to ſecure themſelves, and left him, being in this Condition, and ſpying the 2 Countrymen coming likewiſe, there was no diſpute in the Caſe,--but ſubmit he muſt, if he could not get looſe, which he at firſt endeavoured, but finding that *Neviſon* had his Rein, and that he could not get his Sword or Piſtol, found that in vain, ſo that he yeilded, telling him, his Life was at his Mercy, no ſays *Neviſon*, 'tis not that I ſeek for, but the Money you Rob'd theſe 2 Men of, which ye muſt refund,

fund, to which the Thief was forced to conſent, and readily delivered ſuch part thereof as he had, ſaying his Companions had the reſt, ſo that *Neviſon* having made him diſmount, and taken away his Piſtols which he gave to the Countrymen, ordered them to ſecure him, and hold his own whilſt he took the Thiefs Horſe, and purſued the other 2, whom he ſoon overtook, for they thinking him their Companions, ſtopt as ſoon as they ſaw him, ſo that he came up to them in the midſt of the Common, not far thence, how now *Jack* ſays one of them, what made you engage with yon Fellow, no Gentlmen, Replies *Neviſon*, you'r miſtaken in your Man, though by the token of his Horſe and Arms, he hath ſent me to you for the Ranſom of his Life, which comes at no leſs then the whole prize of the Day, which if you preſently ſurrender, you may go about your buſineſs, if not, I have a little diſpute with you at Sword and

Piſtol, which muſt be determined e're we part, at which one of them let Fly at him, but miſſing his aim received *Neviſons* Bullet into his Right Shoulder, and being thereby diſabled, *Neviſon* about to diſcharge at the other, he called for Quarter, and came to a parley, which in ſhort was made up with *Neviſons* promiſe to ſend their Friend, and their delivering him all the ready Money they had, which amounted to 100 *l.* in Gold and Silver, with this *Neviſon* Rides back to the 2 Countrymen, and releaſes their Priſoner, giving them their whole 40 *l.* with a Caution, for the future to look better after it, & not like Cowards as they were, to ſurrender the ſame on ſuch eaſy Terms, the Countrymen thankfully accepted his kindneſs, and would needs for that Night treat him, which about this time growing on, he did not refuſe, his Habitation being Ubiquitary, ſo that Riding a little way further, they met into an honeſt Inn, where after they had ſeen their

Horſes

Horſes provided for, they beſpoke a good Supper, to which they invited their Hoſt and Hoſteſs, and began heartily to trowl the Cup about, remembring the Health of Good King *Charles*, and his 2 Royal Brothers in Adverſity, and from thence deſcending to talk of the affairs of the Day, and of the Roads being infeſted with ſuch Villanis, *Neviſon* asked them whether they never had heard, of one *Johnſon*, which Name he had then aſſumed, that uſed to Rob ſingly, yes anſwers the Landlord, that Name is no ſtranger to this Road, though as yet I never ſaw the Man, and would willingly be at the charge of a Dozen Bottles, provided I could meet him opportunely, for I have heard, he's a true Royaliſt, and never attempts any thing againſt that party, and withal is very favourable to the Ladies, who generally give him the Character of an civil obliging Robber, amongſt others, adds he, there is one late Inſtance that I met with, which

which was extreamly pleaſant, wherein, by his deſcription, I could not think of any other Perſon concerned therein then himſelf, which was given me by 4 Ladies who Lodged here this dayſennight, who being in the Stage Coach, bound for *London*, they were Accompanied by an Old Sequeſtrator, who had almoſt ſmoaked them to Death all the way he came with his Tobacco, and tyred out the utmoſt of their Patience, with the Stories of his concern in the then Rebellion, when at laſt they were met by a ſingle Perſon, which I ſuppoſe was the ſame you ſpeak of, and having not much about them were not very ſorry for the Adventure, weighing what they had to looſe, with the pleaſure they had with the old Gentleman, who had a conſiderable Charge about him, and who was the only ſufferer thereby, for that as ſoon as the Coach was ſtopt, the Piſtol was preſented to his Breaſt, and he amongſt them all charged to deliver, w[illegible] a requeſt to them that they

they would not be daunted, for no harm was intended againſt their Perſons or Proprieties, the only ſearch being for ſome of thoſe Monies that had been Theiviſhly extorted from the Poor and ought to be refunded, at which the Old Man in a great Fit of terrour, began to expoſtulate for his Life, offering whatſoever he had about him for his Ranſome, which he readily delivered to a conſiderable value. But this not ſerving the turn, the party told him that he muſt come thence and go with him about ſome other affairs he had to concert with him about, and beg'd leave of the Ladies that they would ſpare one of their Coach-horſes for an hour or two, which ſhould certainly be returned that Night for the next days Jorney, ading withal, that the leaſt intimation of theirs ſhould Bail the Gentleman, if they had any mind of his Company, for that time, to which the Ladies anſwered him, that he might act his pleaſure, wiſhing him better liking to

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his converſation then they had met with, and notwithſtanding all the Sollicitations the Old Gentleman uſed, he could not prevail with them to uſe their intreaties in his behalf, ſo that very Civily taking his leave of them, the Robber left them and took his Prize away with him on the Poſtilions Horſe, which he looſed from the Coach and carried him from them in a great Fright, thinking he was now near his end, the Ladies purſued their Journy, and about two hours after they had got thither, (meaning the Houſe where they then were) in comes the ſaid Gentleman on the ſaid Poſtilions Horſe before mentioned, and gave a lamentable Relation how he had been uſed, and forced to ſign a Bill under his Hand of 500 *l.* for his Redemption, payable by a Scrivener in *London* on ſight, which he doubted not but would be received before he could prevent the ſame, but never certainly, adds the Hoſt, was there ſo pleaſant ſport, as to hear

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the Miſer bewail his loſs, and rail at the Ladies, that they would be ſo unkind, as that when one word of theirs might have gained his liberty, not to uſe the ſame in his behalf, which the Ladies turn'd into Redicule, pretending they were ſo frighted, that they knew not what they did, and that he being a Man, and one that had brag'd of his great Services to the *Common-Wealth* in Arms, was much more Condemnable to Submit to a ſingle Perſon, then they whoſe Sex might well excuſe their fear in ſo Frightful an Occaſion, to be rid of their Enemy, at which he was ſo offended, that he Swore they ſhould ſuffer for it, and would Travel no further with them, but hired Horſes and a guide in Town, with which the next day he poſted for *London* without them, which was not a little welcome to the ſhe Travellers. At which Relation Mr. *Neviſon* could not choſe but ſmile, being ſo well acquainted with the particulars, that he could have

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given a Counterpart of the ſame, as likewiſe of the Old Mans Confeſſion, dureing the time he was in Cuſtody, and threatned as to his Life, of all thoſe Roguries and Cheats, he had been concerned in, how many Widows and Orphans he had wrong'd, and many other ſtories of ‡ True Blew Proteſtant Villany. But purſues *Neviſon*, doth he often uſe this Road, yes, Replies the Hoſt, ſeldom a day, but we hear of him, and ſcarce a Village hereabouts, but the poor thereof bleſs him, he being to them very Charitable, out of thoſe ſpoyles he takes from them, that can better ſpare it. I like the Character adds *Neviſon* you give of him, and can tell you ſome ſtories that I have met with that ſpeaks little leſs in his Commendation then what you have related, though amongſt the reſt I heard, he was himſelf not far hence, within theſe 2 Months laſt paſt he was overreached by a Woman, who turn'd his own Trade upon him, and fairly Rob'd

observe the date of this book is 1684

Rob'd him of what he had about him, that's very Strange ſays the Hoſt, and full as true, if report may be Credited (anſwers he) for as I heard, riding, as his uſuall way is, all a lone, he over takes a ſingle Perſon in a very gentile Garb, young and fair, whom he accoſted, inquiring how far ſhe travelled, I ſhould, anſwers ſhe reach this night to *Stevenage*, but if the Evening comes on too faſt, ſhall be willing to take up ſome miles ſhort thereof rather then venture thither a lone, To which Mr. *Johnſon* very Jocundly replyed, if Madam you pleaſe to take a Stranger with you for your Conduct, Aſſure your Ladyſhip I will ſee you ſafe thither, the Lady returned her thanks and accepted his offer, if the ſame ſame would not be incommodious to him, of which he Aſſured her the Contrary, adding, that he ſhould think himſelf very happy in her Ladyſhips Company, not only for that day, but till ſhe had reach'd her

Home, if ſhe pleaſed to admit him to that favour, well Sir, ſays ſhe, you are on your good behaviour, and according as you demean your ſelf to Night you may Expect what you are pleaſed to terme a favour, will be eaſily conferd upon you, I doubt not, purſues he, but your Ladiſhip ſhall approve of my Service, tho I cannot but fear I ſhall be as much put to it to reſiſt your Charms, if you grant me no Incouragement, as the moſt Enamored, in the ſight of thoſe fair bleſſings they ſigh after; Travellers Sir, adds ſhe, are free of their favours, and you need not fear that ſhe whom you are pleaſed to accompany is the moſt unkind of her Sex, tho I muſt limit your pretenſions to Civility, beyond which I ſhall never bee induced to Extend the ſame, Madam, ſays he, it will be hard in ſight of the Haven to be debared an Entrance, yet if your pleaſure proſcribes me I ſhall endeavour Obedience, however, I have one favour to

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beg of you, which He Aſſure you ſhall be modeſtly improved, which is only for the ſake of Mirth? Name it Sir, Anſwers the Lady, and if your Words and Intentions are of a peice, you may be ſatisfied I ſhall as readily grant the ſame, Madam, ſays he, I have a Landlord at *Stevenage*, who often entreated me to bring my Wife with me, and in ſo doing hath promiſed me a good Treat and half a dozen bottles of Wine, whom if you pleaſe to Perſonate, I ſhall take the ſame as a Conſiderable obligation; I ſhall not, anſwers the Lady, deny you ſo ſmall a Trifle, truſting to your generoſity that it is limitted by my Commands, to which he gratfully replyed, and with which diſcourſe, and others much to the ſame purpoſe, they paſt on their way till they came to the place deſigned, where he Intitled her by the name of his Wife, and ſhe returned that of my Dear, which the Hoſt taking notice of Saluted her accordingly, telling his

gueſt he was very glad he was at laſt as good as his promiſe after ſo many failuers therein, leading the Lady into the beſt Roome, and ordering Care to be taken of their Horſes, where after the Landlord had preſented them with a bottle of Canary and rendred his Services to the Lady he left them to beſpeak a Supper, which was forthwith provided, and at which, with their Hoſt and Hoſteſs, they paſt the evening in great Mirth, Supper being over, Mr. *Johnſon* draws his Nominal Wife a ſide, telling her, ſince ſhe had been pleaſed ſo far to honour him with the Title of Husband, ſhe would utterly deſtroy his Reputation, if ſhe did not condeſcend to admit him that Night to her ſide, where by all the Vows he could Imagine, he Swore he would lye as harmleſs, and as far from appoſing her Pleaſure, as the moſt Innocent of her Sex--Alas Sir, ſays ſhe, it is as hard to truſt as to deny you, yet am I ſo far from giving

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any Wound to that Reputation you are owner of, that I would much rather hazard mine, then ſuffer the Injury yuo may thereby meet with, But Sir, ads ſhe, had I known this was the Iſſue of your requeſt, I ſhould have avoided thoſe Favours that gave Foundation thereunto--Dear Madam, purſues he, Repent not your kindneſs, which hath been ſo obliging to me, and by all thats good, by your own ſelf, I vow in the preſence of that Heaven, that o'reſees us, you ſhall riſe from me, if it be your hard Reſolution ſo to do, as unſpotted in your Honour, as if an Infant was nuzled in your Boſom, which even my hands ſhall never commit the leaſt Treſpaſs on,--for once uſe your Commands with me, Replies the Lady, the Wife muſt obey her Husband, but Sir, Remember, Remember what you have promiſed, and let not my Morn ng bluſhes retort the falſehood of your Evening Pretences, into your guilty Eyes, to which he replyed with all

the gratitude the Occaſion ſeemed to require, and drew back to his Hoſt, who had ordered their Bed to be prepared, and where under gladneſs for his promiſed Favours he call'd up for Freſh Bottles, and began again to Carouze it with him, whilſt the Lady retired with her Hoſteſs to fit her night dreſſes, leaving them together, who freely drank up 2 or 3 Bottles, till Mr. *Johnſon* had got pretty merry, which the Lady at her return perceiving, called in likewiſe for her Bottles, and anew ſet upon him, till what between ſleepineſs, and deſire, he ſeemed ready for his repoſe, ſo that in fine, he quickly got into Bed, where, he had no reaſon to complain of his Ladies reſervedneſs, the night hid her Bluſhes, and ſhe with ſome little Oppoſition receiv'd his Embraces, with which he was ſo well ſatisfied, that Morning had almoſt diſcovered it ſelf before he fell to ſleep, when what with the Evenings drinking, and the Night Pleaſures, he then ſound-

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ly enjoyed, which his Miſtreſs perceiving ſhe ſteals ſoftly from his ſide, and arraying her ſelf, calls for the Chamberlain to bring up her Husbands Portmantua into the next Room, ſaying, ſhe had occaſion for ſome Linnen thence, and gave order for her ſide Saddle to be put on her Husbands Horſe, being as ſhe declato Ride to ſee a Lady about 4 Miles thence before he awaked, who little dreamt of the work his deſigning Miſtreſs was putting upon him, the Chamberlain obeyed her, and having rifled his Portmanteau aforeſaid before the Landlord was ſtrring, Mounts the ſaid Horſe, ſaying ſhe would return by that time he roſe, which they not in the leaſt ſuſpecting agreed to, this effected, the Day was far advanced e're *Johnſon* awaked, nor did he much wonder his Miſtreſs by that time was got from his ſide, his Landlord came up and wiſhed him a good Morning, adding that his Wife was a very early Lady, for that ſhe had

been gone 4 or 5 hours on a Viſit before he ſtir'd; On a Viſit ſays he, not a little ſurprized, leaſt his laſt Nights Familiarity was ill taken, ſure you Jeſt, ſhe would not certainly go before me,--Oh Sir, anſwers the Hoſt, ſhe intends to be back before you are ready,& for Expedition ſake hath Rode your Horſe, come Sir what will you pleaſe for a Mornings Draught,--very pretty I faith cryes *Johnſon* to himſelf, I am fairely cullied of my Horſe, and began to be penſive, which his Landlord taking notice of, you need not doubt Sir, adds he, but by that time you are up and have waſhed your Throat with a hair of the old Dog, but ſhee'l be at your Elbow to blame your Sluggiſhneſs, ſay you ſo, Replies he, then I'le riſe, but pray Landlord order my Portmanteau hither, 'tis here in the Room Sir, anſwers the Chanberlain, your Lady had it to take out her Linnen this Morning--let me ſee it, ſays he, whereupon the ſame was brought much lighter

then

then it was the Night before, by at leaſt 2 or 300 *l.* Ha, ſays he to himſelf, now I ſee am at laſt out tricked, but however I'le bear it, ſo as not to be ridicul'd, therefore, purſues he, Landlord pray go down and Mull me ſome Canary and I'le follow you inſtantly, his Landlord obeyed him, whilſt in mean time he was conſidering with himſelf that his Nights Lodging, though it had been ſomewhat divertive, was purchaſed at a dear rate, yet upon the whole he could not much blame his Miſtreſs who had outwitted him, it being his own Weapon which he dayly uſed againſt approaches of neceſſity, and in ſhort, the very ſame that had ever defended him againſt Adverſity, inſomuch that he reſolved, if ever it was his hap to meet her again, he would not only excuſe the Crime but eſteem her, much more then ever yet he had done, the moſt obliging of her Sex, with this Reſolution, down he goes to his Landlord, and ſtaying an hour or two,

two, not ſeeing her return, he order-ed her beaſt to be made ready for him, telling his Hoſt he would Ride in ſearch of her whom he ſuppoſed detained by her Friend to Induce him thither, and taking no further notice, he mounted, and purſues his Journey. The Pleaſantneſs of this Relation diverted the 2 Countrymen, and Mr. *Nevijons* Hoſt, who heartily laughed at the ſame, and which ſo far ſpent the Night, that Bedtime grew on, and the ſeveral parties repaired to their Reſt, the Countrymen very thankful to him, for his Favours, telling him that he was better then a Father to them, with many Acknowledgments of the ſame kind, in fine, they paſt the Night away, and next Morning either of them took their ſeveral Ways: The Recited Adventure, containing part of Mr. *Nevijons* Character, I ſhall only add one Story further, which as it hath ſome Relation to what is before mentioned, may be acceptable to the Reader, and

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then purſue the Thread of that intended Hiſtory, which was, the next Morning after the Lady before mentioned, had ſo deceived him of his Horſe and Money, being unprovided of either, and fruitleſly ſearching after her, he at length overtakes a Trooper, with whom he fell into diſcourſe about the goodneſs of their Beaſts, the ſaid Trooper being very well mounted laughed at *Neviſon* for the diſpicableneſs of that on which he Rode, which *Neviſon* taking notice of, asked him what were the qualities he commended in that he beſtrid more then he could boaſt of in his, though I muſt, ſays he, acknowledg yours has it's ſhapes, and is more becoming then mine, yet I dare Travel with you, as far in a day for 100 *l.* on this poor beaſt, as your finer one ſhall carry you, ſay you ſo, ſays the Trooper, why you dare not pretend to ſuch a brave, you talk of your Horſe, I'le undertake to leap over the

back

back of him,& never touch him,that's fine indeed, ſays *Neviſon*, I'le lay you a Peice, pointing to a gate in the way, you cannot leap over that ſame, 'tis done ſays the Trooper, agreed ſays *Neviſon*, with that they made up to the gate, which the Horſe refuſed, being checked by his Curb, which *Neviſon* obſerving, told him if he would releaſe the Benifit of his Wager he would undertake to make him do it, or double the ſame, that he could not performe it with him on his back, the Trooper hereupon diſmounted and gave *Neviſon* Liberty to try him, who unlooſing his Curb gives him his Cariere, and ſeaſonably remembring him with his Spur, the Horſe fairly takes it, when *Neviſon* had got on the other ſide, he turns about to the Trooper, and after a ſhort Encomium of the Horſe, he asked him, what he valued the ſame at, 40 *l.* Replies the Trooper, to tell you Truth adds *Neviſon*, I think you are modeſt in your demands, and when

when he hath earned me as much Mo-Money, if I know where to meet you, I'le pay you the ſame, in the mean while mine is at your Service, and ſo farewel, Riding fairly through the Field, and leaving the Trooper to purſue him with his Curſes, which was all the harm he could do him, Being thus Remounted, away he goes for the next Booty, which he waited not long for, and by which with this ſort of Life did he altogether maintain himſelf for 3 or 4 years, ſtill taking upon him the name of *Johnſon*, and living upon one or other Road where his Profits or Pleaſure called him, in as great Plenty as if his Table had been every day certainly ſpread with the greateſt Varieties, But as this manner of Life had been his Choice, and that wherein he Chifely delighted, yet could he not help it, but that ſometimes his Conſcience would accuſe him of thoſe Crimes that were the neceſſary Concomitants thereof, and heartily wiſh

with himſelf that he had ſtill kept to his School larning, and approved himſelf in obedience to his Father, whom he could never think on without a very great Reverſe, and ſometimes he would be carried ſo far, in Conſiderations of this nature, that he would vow never more to follow the ſame, and with the Prodigal rather return to his Parents Houſe then live upon thoſe ſpoyls he Extorted from othes; And that which Chiefly ſtrengthened theſe intentions, was the alteration of the Times, which afforded little of thoſe oppertunities he uſed formerly to improve againſt the Malignants, theſe being all like the unwholſome Vapours Exhaled by the peircing Light of that day, which happily reſtored his Majſty, or diſſipated in the Illuſtrious Beams thereof, whence Peace and Plenty began again to Flouriſh, and very few Advantages left on the Road to Incourage him in the proſecution of his ſo much beloved Trade:

ſo

ſo that about the latter end of the Year 1661. having one day met a Conſiderable prize to the vallue of 500 *l.* from a Rich Country Grazier, with this he was reſolved to ſit down quietly and go back for *Pomfret*, where he believed the diſtance of 7 or 8 Years abſcence had ſo alter'd him that he might for ſome time keep himſelf undiſcovered, till he met an oppertunity of Reconciliation with his Father and Maſter, whom he had Wrong'd in his firſt adventure, in purſuance of which Intentions, having a little Civiliz'd his garbe, he Journeys thither, and takes up at a certain Inn in the Town, where he Inquires how old Mr. *Neviſon* did, and whether a live, The Maſter of the houſe acquainted him he was, and in health, I am very glad of it, ſays Mr. *Neviſon*, I was acquainted beyond the Seas with a Son of his, from whom I have ſome Commendations for the old Gentleman, and would be glad Landlord if you would ſend

your

your Sarvant, to Acquaint him thereof, the Sarvant went, and Mr. *Neviſon* in leſs then a quarter of an hour followed him, where after the firſt ſalutes paſt between them, Young *Neviſon* beggd pardon that he had drawn the old Gentleman from other buſineſs, but the ſame was only to preſent him with the duties of a Son of his, whom he had met in his Travels, and who had begg'd the favour of him upon his return into *England*, ſo to do, Sir, anſwers the old Gentilemam, I am afraid you miſtake, for I know no Son of mine there or elſewhere then what live in this Town, pray had you never any other Sons, replyes *Neviſon*; Yes, ſaid the old Man, I had another, I ſuppoſe long ſince dead, he left me ſomwhat graceleſly, but I could have wiſh'd he had lived to have asked my Pardon, why may not (ſays he) this be the ſame party whoſe recommendations I bring you, for if I am not deceived he acquinted me with the

whole

whole ſtory of his Life, wherein one paſſage was about a fright he had been put into at School, and his eſcape, from the future Puniſhment deſigned him, on his Maſters Horſe with 10 *l.* of his Fathers Money, the very ſame Replies the Father, Oh Sir you bring me welcome News, pray how long ſince did you part with him, tell me good Sir, and give me ſome Inſtructions how I may call him home, I ſee him, replies *Neviſon*, about a Month ſince, but he then Injoyned me not to acquaint you any further of his being or abode, till ſuch time I had prevailed with you for a Pardon of his paſt Crimes, upon the News of which, which I ſhall ſuddenly convey to him, I doubt not but he will be ſpeedily at your Feet to beg your Bleſſing---ſay you ſo, replies the Old Man, and I aſſure you Sir upon the word of a Man, I'le not deny it him, he is my eldeſt Son, the Son of my firſt Loves, and I freely forgive him, at which *Neviſon* ſlung

himſelf at his Fathers Feet, to his great rejoycing, and diſcovered himſelf, to be the ſame Son he had ſo long thought Dead as aboveſaid, the Old Gentleman made him extreamly welcome, inviting his Friends and Relations to bear a part therein, and increaſe the Charms of their Mirth, amongſt whom the School-maſter came, who had been the occaſion of his departure, who either of them begg'd pardon of each other, the one for the ſeverity of his Puniſhment, the other for his Crime, offering him Satsfaction for the Wrong he had done, but that the Father had before Diſcharged, and all things were made up between them. Mr. *Neviſon* being thus again ſtated in his Fathers favours, the old Man Inquired into the ſtory of his Life, which the Son thought not fit to Acquaint him with, more then that he had been beyond Sea, and had been their Married, as likewiſe, in the Service at *Flanders*, with ſome other Generals

rals, whereby what he had got he had Induſtriouſly ſaved, and did then intend to ſettle in ſome honeſt way for a livelyhood, with the little ſtock he left, which was to the Vallue of 500 *l.* or there a bouts. The old Man was very well ſatisfied with his Intentions, and promiſed his Aſſiſtances therunto; In this manner did Mr. *Neviſon* turn Honeſt, and for ſeveral Years during his Fathers Life, and afterward, lived in very good Reputation amongſt his Neighbours, having a place in the Exciſe of ſome Value, which he juſtly mannaged, and tho he ſeveral times heard of his former Intrigues from the Mouths of others, under his borrowed name of *Johnſon*, yet had he then no Inclination to forſake the honeſty of that Life he then followed, for the more Alluring tho hazardous profits of the other; Yet he ſometimes pleaſed himſelf to hear what others ſaid of him, and particularly once, a Malſter that lived a bout 10

Miles off from *Pomfret*, at his Fathers Houſe at Dinner, was talking of his Courage, and how that formerly going to *London*, he had been overtaken by that famous Robber *Johnſon*, who endeavoured to Rob him, but, ſay's he, being Armed with no more then my Cudgel I made his Sword and Piſtol fly, and forced him on his Knees to beg my Pardon, which Young *Neviſon* replyed, then pray Sir, why did you not take him Priſoner, you might have done the Country good ſervice in Securing him, no ſays the Malſter, thats below my temper, all that I vallued was his Submiſſion, I am no Theiftaker: ile aſſure you Sir, ſays *Neviſon*, he was much Obliged to you, tho in the relation of his Life, which I have heard from his own Mouth, I never heard this paſſage,--Have you ever ſeen him ſays the Father, yes Sir once I met him, yet indeed he uſed me Generouſly, and after a long Strougle between us, wherein I muſt

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own he had much the better of me, tho I cannot ſay the like of any Man in the World, and I have been in a 100 Encounters, he diſarmed me of Sword and Piſtols both, and being at his Mercy, ſeeing that I had Couragiouſly reſiſted him, inſtead of taking my Money, he told me he would conduct me ſafe to my Inn, and there drink a bottle of Wine with me, at which time I had the relation of every particular of his Life and Robberries, from his Infancy, and I wonder he ſhould forget this that did ſo much Import him---Oh replyed the Maſter, do you think any Bird bewrays its own Neſt, I would give ſays he 10 *l.* to meet him another time, provided I might have the ſame doubled, If I did not bring him in and make him Confeſs what I have told you for a Truth, and then I would generouſly releaſe the poor Coward: ſo well I know him, ſays *Neviſon*, that if youl make your Wager 50 *l.* Ile give you 100 *l.* for it,

if within theſe 3 days he does not give you the opportunity of a meeting, and Arme your ſelf as you will, if he doth not make you ſubmit to ask his Pardon ere he leaves you; 'Tis done ſays the Malſter, chuſe your place and I will ſend him word of it, ſays *Neviſon*, for I know where he is at this preſent, he called to day at my Houſe, and ever ſince the Engagement I ſpeak of, I have known him, and very often ſeen him, for he liveth at preſent Civilly, and hath utterly left his ſaid Trade: The Malſter to carry on his Bravado perſiſted on his bet, and bound the ſame with a peice of Gold, appointing the Thirſday following to decide the matter, in the half way between *Pomfret* and *Ferrybrig*; But, ſays *Neviſon*, if you come not a lone you looſe the Wager, with all my heart replyes the Malſter, I know the Rogue dares not meet me, if you diſcribe my Perſon to him and let him know this Story,---Nay, ſaid

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Neviſon, I am not aſſured of that, however, Ile try and give him notice of it, In fine, the day appointed came, and *Neviſon* Dreſſing himſelf in a diſguize, took his horſe and rode to the place Aſſigned, where he waited almoſt a full hour before he ſee his Antagoniſt, whom at length ſome diſtance from him he Eſpied, and under the benefit of his Diſguiſe, wherein he had dreſt himſelf, like a Country Farmer, he Rides up to him, and falling into Diſcouiſe with him, asked him how far he Travelled, with other Queſtions, to the like purpoſe, the Maſter told him he was in ſearch of one *Johnſon*, a Highwayman, whom he intended to Apprehend, well met then ſays *Neviſon*, you need go no further, I am the Perſon you look for, my name is *Johnſon*, and you and I muſt have one bruſh, to try our skill at Arm's ere we part, the Maſter was ſomething Surpriſed, not ſo ſoon Expecting his Enemy whom he otherwiſe

laid wait for, but puting the beſt Leg foremuſt, told him he was very glad of the Encounter, take your Choice of Weapons then, ſays *Neviſon*, I am Prepared for you, at Sword or Piſtol, whether you pleaſe, or both if you think fit, the firſt may ſuffice replies the Malſter for my purpoſe, whereupon they both drew, and in a very ſhort time *Neviſon* had got his Crupper, and with 2 or 3 Cuts croſs the pate, diſmounted and diſarmed him, after which, ſays *Nevion*, I think Sir, there is a Wager in the Caſe, that you or I muſt Submit, you know you are at my Mercy, and I expect you ſhould entreat it, or by the Eternal God I'le give you ſuch marks of my Revenge as ſhall make you wiſh you had;--never whilſt I live, ſays the Maſter,--No, Replies *Neviſon*, then take what follows, though I ſcorn to do it cowardly, there's your Sword (Flinging him his Weapon,) and diſmonting to be on equal Terms with him, at which the

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Malſters Heart begin to fail him, ſeeing him reſolutely advance to renew his Combat, and agreed to ask his Life, you have it Sir, ſays *Neviſon*, and pray tell my Friend that laid the Wager with you, how generouſly I have uſed you, and brag no more of the advantages you pretended againſt me, for if I hear the leaſt word thereof to my prejudice, whereever I meet you, I'le aſſuredly Piſtol you, the Malſter confeſſed his Error, and promiſed he would never treſpaſs in the like Nature, but whereſoever he met him, pay him that reſpect as belonged to his Courage, whereupon they parted, and *Neviſon* got home before him, waiting his return, and the Deciſion of the wager, which at laſt he confeſſed he had loſt, and was ſufficiently laught at for his boaſting humour; but this private Life of Mr. *Neviſon*, was not what ſuited with his Humour, and his Father being Dead, he returned to his old Courſes, and in the latter part days

was

was much more famous then his Youth, on all occaſions, committing ſuch Robberies, as rendred his Name, the Terror of the Road, inſomuch that no Carrier or Drover that paſt the ſame but was either forced to Compound for their ſafety, by a conſtant Rent, which he uſually receiv'd from them at ſuch and ſuch houſes where he appointed them to leave it, or they were ſure to be rifled for the failure thereof, yet was he withal ſo generally Loved, that no Perſon would, or feared that they dared not, take him, though he converſed every day amongſt them, and every week reſorted to *Pomfret*, amongſt many of which Robberies I ſhall only take a few Inſtances that was moſt notorious, and wherein he got as much Reputation, for his generoſity, as by others he was condemned for the Courſe of Life he led; of which ſort the enſuing is not the leaſt memorable: One day Dineing with a Gentleman of *Yorkſhire*, who was bound

bound in a Statute for the Payment of 1000 *l.* at *London*, on a certain day then near at hand, the Gentleman was much concerned for a Return of his Moneys which he had then by him at his own Houſe, and could not poſſibly hear of any way to get the ſame done, knowing how much the ſame did import him, and the malevolence of his Creditor, who would certainly on failure thereof ſeize upon his Eſtate, he adviſed with Mr. *Neviſon* what was his beſt way to ſecure the ſaid Moneys thither, to which *Neviſon* replied that he ſhould ſend the ſame by ſome truſty Servants whom he might well mount and Arm to the Number of 8 or 10, and that they might travel as ſecurely with it, as if the ſame were in his own Cheſts, the Gentleman complied with his advice, and forthwith prepared 3 or 4 of his own Familiars, as alſo 6 of his Tenants Sons who were reputted for their Courage, and getting each of them a

good

good Horſe and a Caſe of Piſtols, gave them charge of the aforeſaid Sum, and advice where and how they ſhould diſpoſe of the ſame, when they came at *London*, and accordingly within 3 days afterwards, ordered them to ſet Forward; which *Neviſon* hearing of, takes only with him one of his Servants, whom on ſuch deſigns, he was wont to make uſe of, and purſues them at a diſtance, lying in the ſame Inn undiſcovered where they Lodged the firſt Night, at which place being in fee with the Hoſtler, he informed by him on which of the Horſes the Charge was laid, by a token the Fellow gave him, when they mounted claping his hand on the Buttocks of thoſe that carried the ſum, ſaying he would warrant this or that to be the beſt in the whole Company, The Fellows mounted, and ſoon after them *Neviſon* and his Man who quickly overtook them, and taking the Opportunity of a private place, Charged them with their

Piſtols

Piſtols who had the Money, and in ſhort, without the leaſt reſiſtance, the Cowardly Raskels ſurrendred the whole ſum, which was intire in 2 Portmanteaus, with directions how the ſame was to be paid, the greateſt part of the ſaid Moneys being in Gold, they eaſily diſpoſed thereof, and unbridling their ſeveral Horſes, let them aſtray, leaving the ſaid Parties to get the ſame as they could, whilſt they on a good round Speed Galloped thence towards *London*, whilſt, in the mean time, the Fellows having with ſome Labour got their Horſes together, they began to conſult what they ſhould Anſwer to their Maſter for their Cowardize, and loſs of his Money, when one amongſt the reſt adviſed that they ſhould ſhoot themſelves through their Coats and Hats, as likewiſe cut and hew the ſame, as if they had been in ſome dangerous Encounter, and kill 2 or 3 of their Horſes Dead, & cut others over the Head, as likewiſe by lot, to Submit

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one or 2 of themſelves to 2 or 3 ſlight Wounds, under the umbrage of which they might ſay they had met 20 Men in Number, who had aſſaulted them, and though they battled as long as they could, were at length forced to yeild themſelves to the greater Power, this being agreed on by all of them, they put the ſame in Practice, and upon return to their Maſter, brought him ill News of his loſs, with an Encomium of their Courage which had reſolutely ſtood out to the laſt. The Pitiful ſight gained Credit with the maſter to their whole relation, who was extreamly troubled thereat, as well for the ſake of his Wounded Servants as his own Loſs, which he could not tell how poſſibly to repair, for though he might have ſued the County, yet that would not ſerve his preſent occaſions, he being neceſſitated for his Monys inſo ſhorta time, ſo that utterly diſparing of his Fortunes which were hereby reduced to a very Low Ebb, he knew no Friend to apply

ply himſelf to, and to creep to his Creditor was in vain, knowing his humour ſuch that he would be glad to take all advantages againſt him, and would rather rejoyce at, then pitty his Misfortunes, in this Irreſolution he had continued about a week, when Mr. *Neviſon* came one day boldly to ſee him, asking him what News from *London*, and whether his Servants were returned ;---returned ſays the Gentleman, yes they are returned with the Loſs of 3 of their Horſes, and 4 or 5 of them ſufficiently Wounded, in an Encounter againſt double their Numbers, who have got my Money and have utterly undone me--thats very ſtrange replies *Neviſon*, I ſhould have thought it impoſſible that there ſhould have been ſuch a Gang in *England* that dare attempt any ten men Armed,--Alas ſays the Gentleman, 'tis but two true,---But how are you ſattisfied of the truth of that they have Declared, ſays *Neviſon*--By the marks they bear about them

them, ſays the Gentleman, and the honeſty and courage they are Maſters of;--have you any of theſe *Servants* adds *Neviſon* at home,--yes replies he, there's my Butler as Stout a Man as breaths, he has 2 or 3 Cuts over his Head and Shoulders, beſides his Hat and Coat both ſhot through in 4 or 5 places, and his Horſe killed under him, I'le call him up and he ſhall give you the Relation at large,--I would be ſatisfied, ſays *Neviſon*, in this matter, it being ſo ſtrange that I can ſcarce Credit it, whereupon the Butler was called, who came with his Head bound and his Arm in a ſtring, and gave the whole account at large before mentioned, adding ſeveral Circumſtances of his own Courage, that he had ſlain 2 of the Parties with his own hand which their Confederates had carried off, with many *Rhodomantadoes* purporting the ſame, at which *Neviſon* could cot forbear Laughing, telling his Maſterbefore his Face he was a lying Raſcal, and had never

never drawn his Sword in the Defence of the Charge he had about him, and inſtead of the Numbers he ſpakes adds there was not an individual Soul beſides my Man and my ſelf, who took the ſaid Moneys from you, and as to your particulars ſays he to the Butler, you were the firſt Man that delivered me what you had in Charge, I was upon a Cheſtnut Horſe, and my Man on an Iron Grey, deny this, adds he, if you can, the Butler was ſtrangly abaſh'd, yet knowing the truth, began to beg his Maſters Pardon, when *Neviſon* purſued his diſcourſe, telling the Gentleman he knew his Circumſtances, and to that end had by this means ſecured his Money, knowing that there were others in queſt of it, into whoſe Hands it would have fell, if he had not done the ſame, and to ſhew that he had no Intention of Ill in what he did, there Sir adds he, are your Securities delivered up (giving him the Statute and other Writings) with the receipt of the

Moneys duly endorſed on the backſide thereof, which I took Care to pay according to the Directions I found in the Portmanteau with the Moneys aforeſaid. The Gentleman was overjoyed at the News, and returned 1000 thanks to *Neviſon* for the kindneſs, begging him to give the whole Relation of the Robbery, which he did, ſo that the Fellows were forced amongſt them to pay their Maſter for the Horſes they had Slain, and were turned off and pointed at for Cowards through the whole Country, whilſt by the ſame means the Fame of Mr. *Neviſon* every where degreed it ſelf, but not long after this, it happend that Mr. *Neviſon* having committed ſome other Robberies, in the Adjacent parts, he had raiſed himſelf 3 or 4 Potent Enemies, who did all they could to get him taken, which they Effected by means of a Fellow who had dog'd him to his Lodgings, and where when he was found a Sleep they came in upon

upon him, and carried him to the Goal at *Leiceſter*, where he was ſecured, and in which County he had Committed ſeveral Robberies that he knew would come in againſt him, ſo that all his Thoughts was bent to break his Priſon, which though he had ſeveral ways attempted, yet could he not poſſibly do the ſame, he being ſo narrowly watch'd and ſtrongly Iron'd, that he could ſcarce ſtir, whereupon about a Month before the Aſſizes, he bethought himſelf, and one day feigning himſelf extreamly Ill ſends for 2 or 3 of his Friends, and by them a Phiſitian, whom they had prepared, who gave out that he was Sick of a Peſtilential Feavour, & that unleſs his Fetters were taken off, and he had the advantage of ſomewhat opener Air in ſome other Chamber, he would certainly infeſt the whole Goal and dye of the ſaid Diſtemper, whereupon the Goaler was called up, and another Room agreed of, as likewiſe to take off his Fetters, for which

they liberally Rewarded him, in the mean time a Nourſe was prepared for him, and his Phyſitian came twice or thrice a Day to Viſit him, when at laſt he gave out there were no hopes of his Life, and that his Diſtemper was extreamly Contagous, on which Report the Goalers Wife would not let her Husband or any of their Sarvants come nerer then the Door, which gave the Confederates a full liberty to Proctiſe their Intent, which they thus did, a Painter was one day brought in, who made all over his Breſt blew ſpots, in reſemblance of thoſe that are the forerunners of Death in the Diſeaſe commonly cal-ed the Plague, as likewiſe Several o-ther marks, his Hands, Face, and Body, which are uſually on ſuch that ſo Dye; All which being prepared, the Doctors prepares a Doſe whereby his Spirits were confined for the ſpace of an Houre or two, and then Immediately gave out that he was Dead: Hereupon his Friends demand

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the Body, bringing a Coffin to carry him away in, The Goaler, as Cuſtomary, orders a Jury (the Nurſe having formally laid him out) to Examine his Death, who fearing the Contagion he was ſaid to Dye of, ſtayed not long to Conſider therein, but having Viewed him, ſeeing the Spots and Marks of Death about him, his Eyes ſet, and his Jaws cloſe Muffled, they brought in their Verdict that he Dyed of the Plague, and thereupon he was put into the Coffin and carried off. None but the Confederates in the leaſt ſuſpecting but Gods Judgment had overtaken him for his Crimes, and that by ſo ſignal a Death, he was made an Example to others, to purſue better courſes, But he being thus diſcharged, gets out of his Enemies reach, to his Trade again, and meeting ſeveral of his old Tenants, the Carriers, who had uſed to pay him his Rents, as a foreſaid, Told them they muſt now Advance the ſame, for that his late

Impriſonment had coſt him a great ſum of Money, which he expected to be Reimburſed amongſt them, They ſtrangely Surpriſed at ſight of Mr. *Nevijon*, after the Reports of his Death, brooked the ſame a bout, that his Ghoſt walked and took upon him the Employment it was wont when Living, which was the more Confirmed by the Goaler at *Leiceſter*, who had brought in the Verdict of the Jury on Oath, who had Examined the Body, & had found it Dead as a foreſaid, whereupon he had been diſcharged by the Court, as to the Warrant of his Commitment. But afterwards, when the ſame came to be known, and the Cheat detected, the ſaid Goaler was ordered to fetch him in at his Peril, whereupon great ſearch was made for him in all places, and a Reward of 20 *l.* ſet upon his head, for any Perſon that ſhould apprehend him, All which he had notice of, and therefore carried himſelf the more Cautiouſly, tho very frequently

quently he rid about, and Appeared in ſeveral places, none dareing to meddle with him, in which time he became acquainted with another of his own Trade, very famous in *Northampton Shire*, by name *Edward Bracey*, into whoſe Company one day he fell, upon the Road, and giving each other an Account of their lives, amongſt other ſtories that *Neviſon* told him, the Cheat that was put upon him by the Woman in the preceeding Pages was recounted, at which *Bracey* could not forbear Laughing, telling him he well knew the party that had done the ſame, and at the Expence of a good Treat would bring him into her Company, with all my heart replyes *Neviſon*, I would ſpend 5 *l.* for the ſight of her. But will you, ſays *Bracy*, forgive her, Yes, Ile aſſure you, adds he, for at that time and ever ſince I have been ſo far from Condemning her for it, that I know no paſſage in the World ever better pleaſed me, Then replyes

Bracey, I have promiſed to meet her to Night about 10 Miles hence in a Private place where we may remain undiſcovered, and Enjoy our ſelves, tho I muſt farther Oblige you not to make any Pretences as to her Perſon, which I ſuppoſe you will be eaſily induced to, when I acquaint you that ſhe hath been my Wife this 10 Years, and as helpful to me in our way, adds he, as the ſtouteſt Man I ever met with;--ſay you ſo, replyes *Neviſon*, I am very glad of the opportunity of again ſeeing her, which utterly deſpared of, and for which I have Rode many Score Miles in ſearch, being under hopes of Eſtabliſhing a Frendſhip between us, vvhoſe fortunes depend on the ſame bottom: Doubt not, replyes *Bracey*, but I ſhall be emulus of a more ſtrict allyance between us, tho Ile Aſſure you I never yet Joyn'd with any one in Enterprizes of this Nature, my humour, anſwers *Neviſon*, hath ever been the ſame tho I muſt forſake it now,

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with diſcourſes of this kind did they Travel forward till they reatched the Appointed place, And where the two new Eſtabliſhed friends met the party Expected, whom *Neviſon* preſently knew, tho ſhe had quite forgot his Face, where they began to be very Merry, and where *Neviſon* deſired he might not be diſcovered till ſuch time as he did it himſelf, which *Bracey* conſented to, and which was not long ere the ſame was brought about, for he telling this Story of himſelf, ſhe began to Bluſh, and he thereupon to accuſe her, telling her withal, that he little Expected that from a Siſter of the Quilt, However Sir, adds ſhe, you muſt blame your ſelf, for not firſt diſcovering your Circumſtances, yet had I known them I ſhould have glori-ed more to have put the ſame upon Mr. *Neviſon*, then any Man living; I am bound Madam to forgive you, ſays *Neviſon*, and have often ſpoke of you with as great an Eſteem as ever any Perſon whom I have had the

the Honour to know of your Sex, you oblige me Sir, but pray let us put by this diſcourſe, adds ſhe, I have matter more Proper to Concert with you about, I have heard, Mr. *Nevi-ſon*, you have been lately Impriſoned and may want Money, I have laid a project to releive us all wherein to repay what I owe you, you may go ſharer, and which I doubt not but on the hearing, you will allow of; What's that Wife, ſays *Bracey*, Before you came in, purſues ſhe, I ſaw young *Rumbald* below--A pretty Spark indeed, adds the Husband, what ſhould we do with him, he has no Money--No ſays ſhe, but he has 100 *l.* a Year in good Land yet left, which I hope to Steal from him with your Aſſiſtance in a Months time,--A very Project indeed, ſays the Husband, but how can you Compaſs it, let him be called up, and ſee if I Effect not that in the round of 2 or 3 Bottels, whereon I build the whole deſigne--pretty well indeed

deed, ſays *Bracey*, Ile Try that, whereupon *Rombold* was called up, and after that they had invited him to ſit down, and after drank once or twice round to him, ſays the Female, Mr. *Rombold*, what makes you that have an Eſtate of 100 *l.* a Year go in ſo ordinary deſpicable a Garbe, you ſee my Husband and I that live only by our Wits, can maintain our ſelves in Pluſh and Silks, and drink well and fare high, having Money and what elſe at our will, all which you want: Faith Madam, anſwers he, I cant tell, would you would admit me to be your Apprentice, I would ſerve Seven years to learn your Trade, 'tis ſoon done, adds ſhe, if you can be ſecret, and have but Courage to go through with it, I hope as to that Madam, the World can little blame me for the want of either of thoſe 2 qualities, tho I never had much occaſion to put them upon Tryal-Then Sir, purſues ſhe, I can tell you of a prize that may be a 100 *l.* in your

way, if you dare go out to Morrow morning with my husband and this Gentleman, which you'l meet at the Bottom of this hill, in the Hands of an old Usurer, who I am sure by nine of the Clock will pass by with 300 *l.* in his Custody, T'is but dareing and he'l deliver, Faith Madam, says he, I think your offer is to be Closed with, and I stand more obliged to you therein then your Husband, whom I have often solicited to the like end, and who would never give me his Consent, that I might accompany him, but at present I have no Horse nor Arms. That adds she, my husband shall supply you with, Tho we have only one to spare and that's a bad one, but for your Comfort, I can assure you, the Party that brings the Money has a very good one which you may exchange with him, Madam, says *Rumbald*, I thank you, this was the Subject of the Ladies discourse with her Cully, which neither *Nevison* nor *Bra-*

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cey could apprehend her drift in, yet did not interrupt her deſign, ſo that after Supper was over and they had drunk away moſt part of the Evening with a great deal of Mirth, *Rumbald* took his leave and Promiſed to meet the next Morning at 8 in order to the aforſaid concern, who being retired, *Bracey* asked his Wife what ſhe intended in this matter-why Intend, ſays ſhe, I Intend his Eſtate which I am very certain to accompliſh, for tis Agreed you 2 ſhall take him with you to morrow, and I will dreſs up old *Will.* upon your foundred Guelding, and put 300 *l.* into his Cuſtody, who ſhall deliver the ſame to him with great Fear at the firſt word, as likewiſe his Horſe which he'l be ready to exchange with him, which once done, you ſhall perſwade him to Swap the ſame at the next Market where *Will.* ſhall put on another Garb, and ſeize him as a Theif, where to ſave his one Neck, I warrant you he'l agree to make ſale of his

his Eſtate, of which we may ſhare together, excellently contrived, ſays *Bracey*, what think you Mr. *Neviſon*, will it not do, moſt certainly anſwers *Neviſon*, it is Impoſſible to fail, but here it was that *Neviſon* confeſſed himſelf outdone in Stratagem by a Woman, and that their Sexes craft was far more Subtle then the boaſted Pride of Mankind, and accordingly extolled her Prudence as well in that which concerned his ovvn, as the preſent affair vvhich vvas the next Morning perfected, and a Week after near 2000 *l.* brought in upon account aforeſaid, which our two nevv Friends ſhared, and very often aftervvards met and Rob'd in Company together, till, at length they vvere parted by Fate, vvhich Mr. *Bracey* firſt receiv'd the ſtroke of, for as it happened, coming to bury his Wife, vvho died a Natural Death, at a ſmall village in the Forreſt of *Sherwood*, as he Journeyed thither, he vvas told by an old Woman that he ſhould not ſurvive his

his Wife above 6 Days, which fell out too truly, for being at a little Ale-Houſe a feeding himſelf, and a White Mare which he uſed to Ride on, with a Shoulder of Mutton, her Bridle being off, the Country was up and ſurpriſed him, where before he could Mount, they diſcharged at him, and in the firſt Shot took off all his Fingers from both Hands, and Shot his Mare Dead, which being fallen, ſtriving to get over the back Pails, another diſcharge was made at him, from a Fowling Peice into the Guts, where he received ſeveral great Gooſe Shots, of which Wounds in 3 days time he Dyed: *Neviſon* having thus loſt 2 ſo good Friends, was extreamly Melancholly, and did not ſo much regard himſelf as he was wont, ſo that he had like to have fell into the ſame miſadventure, for one day going into an Inn upon the Road, being known by ſome Perſons whom he had formerly Rob'd, and being in Company of 3 or 4 new Com-

Comrades, the whole Town was raiſed about them, and the Inn on every ſide encompaſſed, a duzen or 14 Men Armed at the Stairs Foot, ready to mount, before any notice was given thereof to him, when as it happened, going out to make Water, the Tapſter coming haſtily up, he ſpies the ſaid Parties, whereupon withdrawing a little, he pulls off his Coat and Hat, and ſnatching the Cup and Apron, claps in a Foul Pipe on the ſide thereof, taking an Empty Pot or 2 in his Hands, down he runs Juſt as the People were coming up, and crys coming Maſter, coming, by and by, and paſſes them, whereby he got to the Stable, and Mounting, ſo Arrayed, he charges through the reſt and got off, in the mean while his Companions were all apprehended, having thus eſcaped, he Rides out of Danger, and at a ſmall Houſe, where he was acquainted, ſhifting his Garb he purſues his Journey towards *Yorkſhire*, where it was his hap to meet a Coun-

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tryman on the Road, with whom he fell into diſcourſe, whereby he ſoon underſtood of him, that he was a Servant to Sir *G. C.* a *Yorkſhire* Knight, and that he had the Charge of 200 *l.* about him, but that his Maſter had given him order to take Care to avoid the Rogue *Neviſon*, whom he was ſure would Rob him, if he Light upon him; *Neviſon* ſmiled to himſelf, and told him, he would ſecure him from that Party, being Armed as he was, if he kept in his Company as far as his Maſters, whether he was likewiſe Travelling, the Man thanked him for his kindneſs, and went forward with him till he arrived home, where being come, *Neviſon* bid him tell his Maſter that he miſtook his Man, to think that *Neviſon* would do him the leaſt Injury, for that he himſelf was the Party with whom he had kept Company all the day, and who had guarded his Treaſure home, adding withal, that if Sir *G. C.* would do him the Honour, he

ſhould be Glad to drink a Bottle with him, the Countryman a little ſtartled, told him he would cettainly acquaint his Maſter with what he ſaid, and parted from him, which the Fellow did accordingly, and Sir *G. C.* having a great mind to ſee him, came forthwith to the Inn where he ſtay'd and drunk 2 or 3 Bottles with him, promiſing, that if ever he ſtood in need of his aſſiſtance, he would uſe his endeavours therein, which in ſome ſhort time afterwards *Neviſon* met the Experience of, for being ſoon after apprehended about 3 Years ſince, ſeveral Indictments were brought againſt him for Robberies he had Committed, whereupon he received Sentance of Death, which by the Iterceſſion of Sir *G.* was remitted, and a Reprieve granted for his Tranſportation, But *Neviſon* having his Liberty made an eſcape from his ſaid intended Santance, and Ingred about *Yorkſhire*, following his old Trade, ſo that the Country was ſo far infeſted by him, that a reward

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was ſet upon his Head, for any Perſon that ſhould bring him in, under the Lucre of vvhich, ſeveral laid vvait for him, but could never take him, amongſt others, tvvo Brothers, vvho were his particular Enemies, cheifly intended the ſame, one of whom one day overtaking him, knowing his deſign he turns about his Horſe, and told him, Sir, ſays he, I know your buſineſs, but aſſure your ſelf, I will never yeild till I am Dead, therefore if your Reſolution be to apprehend me, you or I muſt Dye, at which drawing his Piſtol, the ſaid Party, being Fearful, told him he miſtook his Intentions, for that he came on no ſuch deſign, if ſo, Anſwers *Neviſon*, though I can't truſt you, the Life of your Horſe is all I require, which if you refuſe me, yours muſt be its Ranſom, if one muſt dye, replies he, I'de rather my Horſe ſuffer then my ſelf, whereupon he ſhot his Horſe Dead, and ſo Rid off, happy had it been for the Brother of the ſaid party had he ſo eſ-

caped, who in a few days after purſued the ſaid deſign, and being more Couragious, entred upon the grapple with Mr. *Neviſon*, who drawing his Piſtol, ſhot him Dead, this was the firſt Man that *Neviſon* had ever Slain, and much it Repented him at his Death, that he had done the ſame, though he had been certainly taken, if he had not; But on this it was, that People began to change the Love bore him into a Mortal Hatred, the Party vvhom he Slevv, being one much beloved, though no body could prove his Death upon him, yet every one ſuſpected it, and at the Gallovvs, to vvhich he vvas not long aftervvards brought, he fully confeſſed the Circumſtances thereof, to vvhich laſt Scene of his Life, I novv bring him, vvhere after that he had traverſed the Stage of the World, and run through the ſeveral Acts therein, in the ſeveral Garbs and Stations above mentioned, Providence, Almighty Providence, vvhoſe leaden Hands

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many times move ſlovvly againſt the Wicked and Impenitent World, yet ſure at laſt it is to overtake the Guilty, and batter dovvn the Bulvvarks that are raiſed by a hardned Conſcience againſt it, this, I ſay, at laſt reached our Criminal, and in the Compaſs of little more then one ſhort Week, brought him to his Priſon, Sentence, Execution, and Grave, where he now lyes a Morſel for the Worms, whoſe pampered and ill fed Carcaſe had ſo often and ſo riotouſly Conſumed the Eſtates of others, the Relation of which, is only wanting, to Compleat this little Volume. For having Run the Courſe of Life aforeſaid, on *Fryday* the *7th* of *March* laſt, having got into a little Ale-Houſe, in a Village named within 13 Miles of *York*, Intimation was given thereof to one Captain *Hardcaſtle*, a Perſon weli known for his Courage and Reputation in the North of *England*, who as well to

ſerve his Country, as in Obdience to his Majeſties Proclamation that had taken Notice of the ſaid *Neviſons* Robberies, hazarded his Life with a ſmall Number of Aſſiſtants to ſeize him, which he thus Effected, coming into the Room were he was, he Collers the ſaid Priſoner, and with his Piſtol preſented to his Breaſt, Commanded him, if his Name were *Neviſon*, in the Kings name, to yeild, *Neviſon* hereupon ſtartled was about to looſe himſelf from him, clapping his hand into his Pocket to Cock his Piſtol, which the Captain eſpying gets faſt hold thereof, and in the ſcuffle, *Neviſon* Wounded his Right hand by running the ſaid Cock thereinto, ſo that help coming in and he near diſabled, they ſoon overpowred him and got him diſarmed, and a Foot into their Cuſtody, the Conſtable ſoon after appearing, he was forthwith committed to the Goal at *York*, the Judges of the Aſſize, for the ſaid County then ſitting, where

when they had brought him, he was ſoon ſecured, the whole Country coming in to have a ſight of him who had been ſo much talked of, every one telling one Story or other to his Neighbour of his Exploits, inſomuch that the Concourſe was ſo great the Goaler was forced to Petition the Court then ſitting, that he might be indemnified as to the Priſoner if he eſcaped, or that they would pleaſe to remove him to a place of greater ſtrength, for that he knew not how to ſecure him, but they conſidering the ſhortneſs of his Days, ordered him to be Fettered, and Cautioned the Goaler to look to him, Dureing which time, till *Wedneſday* following which was the Day he was brought into Court, he ſeemed ſullingly Melancholly without any great ſhew of Remorſe for the Crimes he had been Guilty of, ſaying that he knew he muſt Dye, which was the worſt could be done to him, being then brought before the Court no new Indictment

was preferred againſt him, but only the Clerk asked him, what he had to ſay, why Execution ſhould not be done againſt him, according to his former Sentence, to which his anſwer was, That he had his Majeſties Gracious Reprieve, upon Condition of Tranſportation, and that he was preferred to go as an Enſign in one of his Majeſties Foot Companies to *Tangier*, but upon his going, he fell ſick, and continued ſo for 3 Months, till ſuch time as his Captain was gone aboard, whom after that, he had no Opportunity to follow, but this the Court told him, was not a Sufficient Excuſe, and forthwith gave order to the Goaler to take Care of him, and that his former Sentance ſhould be Executed againſt him on the *Saturday* following, in the mean time, he petitioned the Court for a Reprieve till the next Aſſizes, which could not be granted, under the Circumſtances the ſaid Priſoner then ſtood, though many Gentlemen and others heartily Commiſerated

miſerated his Condition, and would willingly have uſed their endeavours in his behalf, but ſuch was the Decree of his Fate, that his Time was come, beyond which *Period*, it was in vain to ſtrive to ruſh forward, the greateſt Strength, Wiſdom or Policy, being too feeble ever to attempt the ſame. So that on *Saturday* the 15*th* of *March*, being brought to the Common Place of Execution belonging to the City of *York*, in the Preſence of an Infinite Number of Spectators, he Confeſſed the Juſtice of that Sentance the Righteous Judgment of God, and the Laws of the Kingdom, had brought him there to Suffer, and that he Heartily forgave all Men with as free a mind, as he hoped God Almighty would forgive him, of thoſe many Crimes and heinous Impieties, which in his own Conſcience he ſtood Convicted of, adding, that what he had chiefly to Diſburthen himſelf of, was, as to the Death of Mr. *Fletcher*, whom he had

had Slain, which he ſaid lay as a Mountain of Lead upon his Heart, which all his Power could not remove, tho he hoped, the God of Heaven and Earth, whoſe Mercy was Infinite, and could, thro in the Interceſſion of his Deareſt Son, and our Saviour *Chriſt Jeſus*, as well remove the greateſt as the moſt minute and Trivial Peccadillo, would pleaſe to Compaſſionate his Diſtreſſes and Waſh him from Blood-Guiltineſs, in thoſe pure and Imaculate Streams that Sprang from the Sides of his great Redeemer, with many other Expreſſions Savouring a penitent and reſigned Temper, which appeared in his Demeanour, giving all People advice, that by the Scandal of that fate they ſaw him then come to Suffer, they would Eſchew thoſe Evill Courſes that had brought him thereunto, Eſpecially Warning all young ones that they ſhould be Obedient to their Parents, and which was a Command that God had only accompanied with a Bleſſing,

and

and the breach thereof, was at all times Proſecuted with a Curſe, ſaying that this was his Sin from whence, as a Spring or firſt mover, all the ſucceeding crimes he had been Guilty of, took their Rice and Motions, Next to which the Careful Obſervation of the Sabbath was that which he Exhorted all to, as the only Method to bring them to a Life of Piety and Religion, and Reſtrain them in the Career of thoſe Principles, whoſe end is Deſtructon, of which he Confeſſed himſelf to have been utterly mindleſs, whereby he had been drawn into ill Company, and by degrees graduated into Evill, which creeps on perſons Inſenſibly, thinking at its firſt admiſſion, it will prove a modeſt gueſt, and not intrude further then Men are pleaſed to give it leave, when it intendes no leſs then a full poſſeſſion of the whole Soul, and like the Serpent in the Fable, admitting only its Head, riggle in its whole Body after it, with many

other

other Expreſſions of the like Nature, after which Speech, he made a ſhort Prayer, and Submited to his Sentance; where we leave him to the Judgment of that great Tribunal, we all muſt one Day Approach and Anſwer for thoſe Crimes we Commit here upon Earth; In preparation whereunto, may God give us Grace to avoid thoſe Impieties that may make us Afraid or Aſhamed thereof.

FINIS.